## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

**Please insert the following prior to the first line of text on page 1 of the application:**

This application is the United States national phase of International Application No.PCT/EP2004/006515, filed on December 29, 2004, which was published as WO2004/113369 and which claims priority to German Application No. 103 28 080.4, filed on June 20, 2003, each of which are incorporated by reference herein..

**Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 25-35, with the following paragraph:**

Due to the central role which the a determinant plays in active immunization (vaccination with HBV antigen), passive immunization (protection by means of HBV-specific immunoglobulins), detection of the success of a vaccination or of an HBV infection which has taken place (both by means of determining HBsAg-specific antibodies, i.e. anti-HBs) and, finally, safety in the field of blood donation (HBsAg determination and PCR), it is understandable that the appearance of mutants, and also new variants, is followed with great attention in specialist circles.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 19-36, with the following:**

The oligonucleotide or polynucleotide according to the invention can also comprise a nucleotide sequence which is a constituent sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 containing at least 8 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, with the constituent

sequence including at least one of the positions 218, 233, 335, 365 and 416 of SEQ ID NO:1. The constituent sequence preferably comprises at least 9, more preferably at least 10, most preferably at least 12, consecutive nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1. In other embodiments, the constituent sequence comprises at least 15, at least 18, at least 20, at least 25, at least 30, at least 35, ~~at least 30, at least 35,~~ at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, at least 100, at least 120, at least 150, at least 175, at least 200, at least 250 or at least 300 consecutive nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 30, lines 1-9, with the following:**

(2) Oligonucleotide or polynucleotide according to (1) which is in each case at least 65% or 66% or 67% or 68% or 69% or 70% or 71% or 72% or 73% or 74% or 75% or 76% or 77% or 78% or 79% or 80% or 81% or 82% or 83% or 84% or 85% or 86% or 87% or 88% or 89% or 90% or 91% or 92% or 93% or 94% or 95% or 96% ~~or 99%~~ or 97% or 98% or 99% identical with one of the sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO:11 ~~Seq id no: 1 to Seq id no: 11~~.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 33, lines 3-11, with the following:**

(12) An oligopeptide or polypeptide accerding to (10) or (11) which is in each case at least 65% or 66% or 67% or 68% or 69% or 70% or 71% or 72% or 73% or 74% or 75% or 76% or 77% or 78% or 79% or 80% or 81% or 82% or 83% or 84% or 85% or 86% or 87% or 88% or 89% or 90% or 91% or 92% or 93% or 94% or 95% or 96% ~~or 99%~~ or

97% or 98% or 99% identical with one of the sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:12 to SEQ ID NO:22 ~~Seq id no: 12 to Seq id no: 22~~.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 40, lines 18-25, with the following:**

Finally, the invention also relates to diagnostic reagents as kits which, based on the above-described methods make possible the detection of HBV variant-specific antigen (HBsAg) or antibodies directed against it (anti-HBs), either as single determinations or ~~can be~~ combined with each other or with other known HBV antigens or antibodies which react specifically therewith or else with quite different analytes.

**Please replace the text at page 44, lines 12-15, with the following:**

**PCR 1 rxn**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Primer 1 (10 µM) | 1 µl | |
| Primer 2 (10 µM) | 1 µl | |
| 10-fold conc. buffer | | |
| (incl. 15 µM $MgCl_2$) | 5 µl | |
| dNTP mixture (10 µM) | 1 µl | |
| dist. Water | 36.75 µl | |
| Ampli Taq (5 U/ µl) | 0.25 µl | |
| (per tube) | 45 µl | total volume |
| plus | 5 µl | of isolated DNA |
| | 50 µl | reaction volume |